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January 21, 2005

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Room TW-B204
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service
CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Madam Secretary:

In accordance with Section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206, we hereby provide you with notice of an oral *ex parte* presentation in connection with the above-captioned proceeding.

On Tuesday, January 18, 2005, undersigned counsel, on behalf of Smith Bagley, Inc. ("SBI"), Highland Cellular, Inc. ("Highland"), Rural Cellular Corporation ("RCC") and the Alliance of Rural CMRS Carriers ("ARC"), met with Aaron Goldberger of the Wireless Bureau, to discuss SBI's pending petition for waiver to permit Tier 4 support to be made available on the Eastern Navajo Agency. Counsel also discussed the Commission's upcoming action in the above-referenced docket and petitions for service area redefinition that have been pending before the agency for as long as two years.

Counsel requested prompt action on the SBI waiver petition, so that consumers on the Eastern Navajo Agency can receive Tier 4 benefits at the earliest possible date. On behalf of RCC and ARC, counsel also urged the Commission to dispose of a number of service area redefinition cases under the rules in effect at the time the petitions were filed with the agency.

Finally, counsel requested the Commission to take no action on the West Virginia Public Service Commission's petition for redefinition of service areas, as it was unopposed and the ILEC at issue had disaggregated its support so as to obviate the possibility of uneconomic support being provided to competitors.

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If you have any questions or require any additional information, please contact undersigned counsel directly.

Sincerely,

/s/

David A. LaFuria

cc: Aaron Goldberger, Esq.